passports pending with the Passport Office Bareilly at the beginning of 2002 was 1382.

(b) The number of applications received by the Passport Office, Bareilly since January 10, 2002 till 28-2-2002 was 5236.

(c) The maximum and minimum pendency period in respect of applications pending clearance at the beginning of 2002 was 4 weeks and 2 weeks respectively.

(d) and (e) The number of passport applications rose from 34230 in the year 2000 to 42512 in the year 2001 which is an increase of over 24 per cent. The Passport Office is dealing with this increasing volume of work by a greater degree of computerisation and by improving the work culture of the staff. Pendencies are gradually coming down but their elimination depends on the number of fresh passport applications received.

Charges against criminals demanded by India from Pakistan

847. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of terrorists/criminals alongwith the charges against each for whose extradition have been demanded by Government from the Government of Pakistan; and

(b) Pakistan Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) On 31st December, 2001 Government handed over to Pakistan a consolidated list of 20 fugitives from law who have been provided safe have in Pakistan, and asked the Pakistan authorities to apprehend and hand over these individuals so that they could be brought to justice for their crimes. Amongst the individuals figuring on the list are those responsible for heinous crimes including the Mumbai bomb blast in 1993, the hijacking of IC 814 to Kandhar in December, 1999 and the attack on India's Parliament on December 13, 2001.

The Pakistani authorities have not taken any action on the list handed over to them and have sought to offer specious and untenable arguments. The President of Pakistan, in his address to the Pakistan nation on January 12, had

stated that there was no question of the Pakistani authorities handing over any Pakistani national to India. As regards the presence in Pakistan, of the non-Pakistan nationals who figure on the list, the President sought to obfuscate the issue by commenting that Pakistan had not given asylum to any such person.

Other comments from Pakistani spokesmen, essentially as a delaying tactic, have suggested that the issue could be handled after the two countries conclude an extradition treaty when talks are resumed.

Killing of Security personnel in West Bengal

848. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangladesh-based faction of the Harkat-ul-Jehad-e-Islami is reportedly involved in the killing of Security personnel of the West Bengal on the American Centre in Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter was taken up with the Government of Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) On January 22, 2002 the Kolkata Police force personnel guarding the American Centre in Kolkata were fired at by armed terrorists. The matter is still under investigation.

Passport Scandal in Houston Consulate

849. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Passport Scandal in Houston Consulate" appearing in the Hindustan Times on the 21st January, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;